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SOURCE Zemedelske Noviny.

DECREE ON HAY CUTTING;
 AND PURCHASING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[In its session of 13 May, the Czechoslovak government adopted the following measures to provide and expand sources of fodder. The resolution emphasizes self-sufficiency in fodder for JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives), state farms, and small and middle farmers.]

Past experience, Soviet as well as Czechoslovak, has indicated that quality livestock can be raised in spite of reduced consumption of grain feeds, provided enough bulky and succulent fodder is available.

Even though the 1951 hay harvest was generally successful, shortcomings were observed which showed that many workers in state farms, STS (Machine-Tractor Stations), and JZD, as well as other farmers, did not understand the importance of cutting hay at the proper time, rapidly and without waste. Little attention was devoted to the preparation of the hay-cutting plan and to its execution within proper agronomic time limits. Not all machinery was fully utilized, and harvest work and purchasing often were not systematically checked and directed. Excessive supplies of fodder were left in the hands of the village rich.

A. Preventing Waste in Hay Cutting

Since the quality of hay is determined primarily by the time of cutting and method of drying, the Ministry of Agriculture, the national committees, the chairmen of JZD, the directors of state farms, and the directors of STS shall adhere to the following basic agronomic rules for cutting hay:

1. Provide for the cutting of alfalfa-grass mixtures, clover-grass mixtures, and fields of pure clover or alfalfa at the time when the clover and alfalfa are beginning to bloom. In the case of meadows and pastures, this is to be done when the predominant type of grass is beginning to bloom. The cutting is to be done within the shortest possible time, so that it will be completed by

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20 June in the low-lying areas, and by the beginning of the harvest season in the higher areas, particularly in the border regions. At least two cuttings shall be made from all meadows and pastures; the first cutting shall be 4-5 centimeters and the second cutting 5-7 centimeters above the ground.

2. Provide drying frames for drying clover-grass and alfalfa-grass mixtures, as well as pure clover and alfalfa. These frames shall be used to a greater extent than heretofore.

3. See that properly dried hay is taken off the fields quickly and stored in well-ventilated places, protected against the weather.

4. Devote special care to the cutting of hay in areas infested with strangle. The fodder from these fields should be thoroughly dried to destroy the larvae of this parasite.

5. Expand the establishment of green zones, and use all opportunities to sow intermediate fodder crops, so that at least 60 percent of all fodder produced on arable land will be dried, and thus provide a sufficient quantity of high-quality hay for the winter.

6. Immediately after the harvest, see that the areas planted to clover and to alfalfa-grass mixtures, as well as areas planted to clover and alfalfa alone, are harrowed and fertilized, primarily by liquid manure.

7. Acquaint, by suitable publicity in the daily press, village newspapers, and other propaganda media, all agricultural workers with agronomic rules and the importance of adhering to them.

B. Full Utilization of Machinery

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, the national committees, the chairmen of JZD, the directors of state farms, and the directors of STS shall:

a. Complete the repair of all tractors and machines needed for cutting hay, by 25 May 1952.

b. Examine and complete the hay-cutting plan for STS according to individual sectors, individual centers, and individual machines, and establish daily norms, by 25 May 1952.

c. Form preparedness brigades in the frontier regions for cutting hay. An independent plan will be worked out for them, which shall outline the work of preparedness brigades, the amount of land to be mowed, and the period in which the harvest is to be completed.

d. Make sure that the STS organize enough groups of mowers particularly for harvesting fodders on arable land. They shall also work in two shifts.

2. Kraj and okres national committees shall:

a. Complete an inspection of all hay-cutting machinery in STS, state farms, and JZD, by 25 May 1952.

b. Check by 25 May 1952 the agreements of harvesting and hay cutting which the STS have concluded with JZD and state farms. They shall check daily on the utilization of hay-cutting machinery, and if it appears that the hay harvest may be delayed unduly, they shall transfer the necessary machinery. Transfers of machinery between krajs shall be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, and this ministry will arrange for proper reimbursement from its own budget.

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c. Provide for the full utilization of all machinery owned by the village rich to aid JZD and state farms, as well as small and middle farmers, according to law.

C. Hay Cutting in Socialist Sector

When the hay-cutting plan is being prepared, as well as during the course of hay cutting, more small and middle farmers must be recruited for communal hay cutting, so that they will be shown dramatically the advantages of large-scale cooperative production, and will thus become convinced cooperative members.

1. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture, the national committees, and the chairmen of the JZD shall take the following measures:

a. In compliance with the annual production plan, immediately complete the time schedules for hay cutting within agronomic time limits. In these time plans, specific tasks must be allotted to individual working groups or squads. Local machinery and draft power and the aid of the STS must be utilized fully.

b. Work out a plan for the utilization of machinery and draft power so that the harvest can be completed by local manpower and machinery in areas which can be mowed only by hand or by the use of horse-drawn mowers. They shall reserve for the STS only those areas where tractors can be fully utilized.

c. Examine existing agreements and, if necessary, conclude supplementary agreements between STS and JZD which are unable to complete the harvest with their own machinery within agronomic time limits.

d. In connection with the current competition among JZD, organize competitions for timely and quality hay cutting with individual JZD and among STS brigades.

e. See that JZD members, during the critical period of the harvest, devote all their efforts to secure a timely harvest of high-quality hay without regard for the length of their working day, and that they organize their work so that the hauling and unloading of hay can continue during night shifts.

f. See that those JZD which are preparing to transfer to joint management, not only harvest the hay jointly but also take all measures for its joint storage.

2. The Ministry of Agriculture, officials of the kraj administrations, directors of state farms, and managers of component farms shall take the following measures in cooperation with the national committees and employee groups:

a. By 20 May 1952, examine the time plans for the hay harvest on individual component farms, the boundaries of the areas to be cut, and the requirements for machinery and manpower.

b. Assure that the completed plans shall be discussed with all employees and with the individual working groups and squads, and that all workers are carefully acquainted with their tasks and output norms.

c. Provide for the proper allocation of all machinery in individual krajs according to the tasks assigned to individual state farms. If necessary they shall conclude agreements with the STS so that the cutting will be completed within agronomic time limits.

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d. Provide that, on the basis of the plan as worked out, state farms shall enlist the aid of sponsor factories with the cooperation of the national committees. They shall conclude agreements with the sponsor factories, establishing the amount of land which will be harvested, and the period within which the harvest is to be completed.

D. Joint Harvest Work on JZD of Type I and in Obeces Without JZD

Since, when it is jointly organized and well done, hay cutting is a good means of demonstrating to small and middle farmers the advantages of joint work, and of persuading members of Type-I JZD to transfer to joint tillage, the Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees, in cooperation with all components of the National Front, shall:

1. In all obeces with Type-I JZD, and in all obeces without JZD, organize social and cultural meetings with the farmers at which measures for joint hay cutting will be discussed.

2. At these meetings, discuss and establish a plan for joint hay harvesting based on full utilization of all machinery and draft power, and on the mobilization of all manpower in the obec, so that the hay cutting may be done according to agronomic principles.

3. Devote more attention to hay cutting by the village rich, and see that all hay in excess of the requirements for the planned number of livestock kept by them, is sold under the crop-purchase program; and that every attempt to disrupt the careful and timely completion of hay cutting is punished severely.

E. Hay Harvest of Grass Fields

To utilize fully all grass fields and other areas to provide sources of fodder, the government orders that:

1. The Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of the Construction Industry shall be responsible for harvesting grass on all highway clearings, railroad right of way, and similar areas which are often not fully utilized. The Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of National Security, and the Ministry of Forests and the Wood Industry shall take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the proper kraj and okres national committees, to provide for the hay harvest in all areas under their administration, so that not one hectare of land will remain unharvested. After the conclusion of hay cutting, the ministries will report to the government on the extent to which these tasks were fulfilled.

2. The national committees shall harvest grass in orchards and other unused areas, and shall sow all unused land to legume-grain mixtures to provide supplementary sources of fodder.

F. Crop Purchase of Hay

The Ministry of Internal Trade, the national committees, the directors of the kraj crop-purchase enterprises, and the directors of the crop-purchase warehouses shall:

1. Purchase hay directly from the meadows and fields and see that the delivery quotas are met with first-cutting hay of high-quality. Deadlines in the krajs and okreses are to be established so that hay purchasing will be completed by the beginning of the grain harvest season.

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2. Purchase hay on the basis of a precise plan, broken down to individual obeces and crop-purchase warehouses. Hay deliveries should be organized in co-operation with the local national committees so that the obeces will fulfill their quotas as a unit, and no agreement will remain unfulfilled. Special attention should be paid to see that the village rich fulfill their delivery quotas.
3. Accept only good-quality hay for the fulfillment of delivery quotas. Deliveries in excess of these quotas are to be paid for at premium prices.
4. Provide suitable warehouses for storing purchased hay, and store the hay in such a manner that it does not deteriorate in quality. In cooperation with the national committees, take proper security measures for the protection of the warehouses.
5. The Ministry of Internal Trade, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, shall issue crop-purchase and quality norms by 20 May 1952, and shall announce purchase prices for both quota deliveries and surpluses.
6. During the period of hay purchase the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Internal Trade shall provide the principal public consumers, on a priority basis, with sufficient supplies for the entire year 1952 - 1953.

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